

USANEWS IN BRIEF



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Ramadan Kareem - Remarks of President Barack Obama in Ramadan Message



On behalf of the American people – including Muslim communities in

all fifty states – I want to extend best wishes to Muslims in America and around the world. Ramadan Kareem.

Ramadan is the month in which Muslims believe the Koran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, beginning with a simple word – iqra. It is therefore a time when Muslims reflect upon the wisdom and guidance that comes with faith, and the responsibility that human beings have to one another, and to God.

Like many people of different

faiths who have known Ramadan through our communities and families, I know this to be a festive time – a time when families gather, friends host iftars, and meals are shared. But I also know that Ramadan is a time of intense devotion and reflection – a time when Muslims fast during the day and perform tarawih prayers at night, reciting and listening to the entire Koran over the course of the month.

These rituals remind us of the principles that we hold in common, and Islam's role in advancing justice, progress, tolerance, and the dignity of all human beings.

For instance, fasting is a concept shared by many faiths – including my own Christian faith – as a way to bring people closer to God, and to those among us who cannot take their next meal for granted. And the support that Muslims provide to others recalls our responsibility to advance opportunity and prosperity for people everywhere. For all of us must remember that the world we want to build – and the changes that we want to make – must begin in our own hearts, and our own communities.

[Read more...](#)



**MUSLIM AMERICANS
MOURN DEATH OF SENATOR
EDWARD KENNEDY**

**NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM
EXPLORES MUSLIM EXPERIENCE
IN AMERICA
FILM CREW VISITS MUSLIM
COMMUNITIES ACROSS
UNITED STATES**

**MUSLIM AMERICANS FIND
THEIR VOICE THROUGH
ADVOCACY, ENGAGEMENT**

**DIVERSITY, FAITH DEFINE
EVOLVING IDENTITY OF
MUSLIM AMERICANS**

America.gov News



Secretary Clinton visited **seven nations** in Africa, August 3-14,

highlighting the Obama administration's commitment to making Africa a priority in U.S. foreign policy.



Related link:
[DIPNOTE](#)

U.S. Department of State
Official Blog.

In an exclusive commentary published by People Magazine, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton shares what she learned on her seven-nation trip to Africa...
[What I Saw in Goma](#)
By Hillary Rodham Clinton

Obama Awards 2009 Medals of Freedom

Sixteen political leaders, activists, scholars and artists from around the world, defined by the president as "agents of change," received Presidential Medals of Freedom in a White House ceremony.



Desmond Tutu, left, a leading anti-apartheid activist in South Africa, was awarded a 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

See Also:

[Transcript of Obama's Remarks at the Ceremony](#)

Obama Reappoints Bernanke as Federal Reserve Chairman

Amid the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s, President Obama has reappointed economist Ben Bernanke to a second term as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank.

[A transcript of Obama's and Bernanke's remarks](#)

Additional reading:

[The Global Financial System: Six Experts Look at the Crisis](#)



Experts describe the mechanics of the global financial system presenting their views concerning the cyclical nature of markets, the interdependence of global trade relationships, and the role of regulation.

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Labor Day

Labor Day, celebrated in the United States on the first Monday of each September, is the nation's official commemoration of its workers' contributions to national strength, prosperity and well-being. It also marks for millions of Americans the unofficial end of summer.

The exact origins of Labor Day are unknown, but scholars typically credit either of two labor union officials -- Peter J. McGuire of the national carpenters' union or Matthew Maguire of a machinists' local in Paterson, New Jersey -- with the idea.

The first Labor Day was cele-

brated in New York City on September 5, 1882. The date apparently was chosen because it was about halfway between the July 4 Independence Day holiday and Thanksgiving (which falls in November). The occasion was marked by a parade sponsored by the Knights of Labor, an early U.S. labor organization, and about 10,000 workers marched.

The next day's *New York Times* reported that "Those who rode or marched in the procession were cheerful, and evidently highly gratified with the display. ... The great majority smoked cigars, and all seemed bent upon having a good time at the picnic grounds."

Banners called for "Eight Hours for a Legal Day's Work" and "Less Hours and More Pay."

The Knights adopted a resolution calling for recognition of the first Monday of September as Labor Day. By 1894, some 28 states celebrated Labor Day and in that year Congress adopted legislation establishing the legal holiday.

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2009.](#)

SOTOMAYOR CONFIRMED AS NEWEST U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

IN A VOTE OF 68-31, THE UNITED STATES SENATE CONFIRMED JUDGE SONIA SOTOMAYOR AS THE 111TH U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE.

OBAMA PRAISES COURAGE AND DIG- NITY OF AFGHAN VOTERS

WHILE RESULTS ARE NOT YET KNOWN IN AFGHANISTAN'S PRESIDENTIAL AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS, PRESIDENT OBAMA SAYS THE VOTE WAS "AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD" FOR THE AFGHAN PEOPLE IN TAKING CONTROL OF THEIR COUNTRY'S FUTURE IN THE FACE OF THREATS FROM VIOLENT EXTREMISTS.

White House News

CWeekly Address: Myths and Morality in Health Insurance Reform

President Obama debunks the myths around health insurance reform, and discusses the public option proposal in which many of them are rooted. But he focuses his address on the stark moral and historical turning point at which we find ourselves.



Remarks
by the
President
on the
recent

[elections in Afghanistan](#)

[Read more...](#)

Diligence on H1N1

PCAST, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, releases a new re-

port assessing the Obama Administration's preparations for this fall's expected resurgence of H1N1 and outlining key steps government can take in the coming weeks and months to minimize the flu's impact on the country.

[One-stop access to U.S. Government H1N1, avian and pandemic flu information.](#)

CO.NX News — U.S. Department of State

Just follow the links:

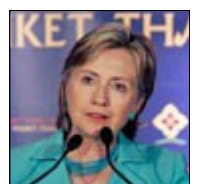
Webchats:

July 24-August 28: Democracy Video Challenge Winners



Podcasts:

This podcast reviews U.S. policy toward Iraq, Secretary Clinton's recent visit to India and Thailand, and other topics. [Transcript](#)



Did you know?



Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, seen here at the United Nations in 2006, was the first woman elected president in Africa.

The first black woman ever to become a head of state is Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will visit with Sirleaf when she visits Africa starting August 4.

Learn more:
[African Women Making Progress in Legislative Politics](#)

U.S. government blogs are providing a forum for citizens to discuss policy issues.

Learn more:

[Blogs Help Put a Human Face on Government Bureaucracy](#)



Its blog, Greenversations, helps the public better understand the Environmental Protection

An estimated 42 million people around the world have been uprooted by conflict and persecution; another 214 million people in 2008 were affected by natural disasters. This year alone, the United States has contributed about \$4.5 billion for humanitarian assistance efforts, not including aid efforts by the U.S. military.

Learn more:
[U.S. Marks World Humanitarian Day, Announces Additional Aid](#)

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY DIES AT 77

"AN IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN OUR HISTORY HAS COME TO AN END. OUR COUNTRY HAS LOST A GREAT LEADER, WHO PICKED UP THE TORCH OF HIS FALLEN BROTHERS AND BECAME THE GREATEST UNITED STATES SENATOR OF OUR TIME," PRESIDENT OBAMA SAID IN A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AUGUST 26. (SEE [STATEMENT.](#))

eJournal USA / Other America.Gov Publications

Anatomy of a Jury Trial

Juries — usually groups of 6 or 12 ordinary citizens — provide a crucial service for their fellow citizens: Just as in medieval England, where they got started, juries prevent government, even democratic government, from pursuing oppressive prosecutions.

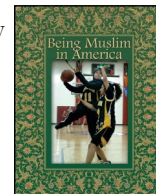
[Inside this publication](#)

Being Muslim in America

The young women pictured on our cover are both Muslim. They live near Detroit, Michigan, in a community with many Arab-American residents. Each expresses her faith in her own way, with a combination of traditional and modern dress. Here, they compete fiercely on

the basketball court in a sport that blends individual skills and team effort. They - along with the other men, women, and children in this publication - demonstrate every day what it is like to be Muslim in America.

[Inside this publication](#)



U.S. Marks World Humanitarian Day, Announces Additional Aid

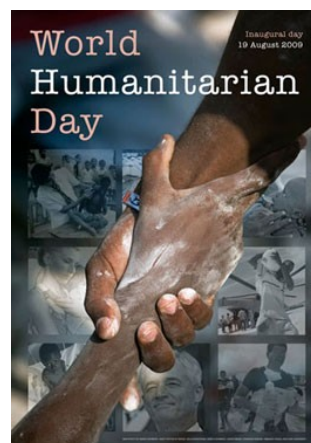
U.S. officials marked the first World Humanitarian Day by announcing an additional \$160 million to support global aid work and calling for governments and parties in conflict areas around the world to pay attention to the safety of humanitarian workers.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in an August 19 statement that World Humanitarian Day is being observed to increase public awareness of the activities of aid

groups and volunteers, as well as to honor their efforts to help the world's most vulnerable people.

"The success of our collective response to humanitarian crises rests on the selfless commitment and dedication of professional humanitarian aid workers," Clinton said.

[Read more...](#)



English Teaching Corner

The Word of the Day

Hydra -(n.). A many-headed monster slain by Hercules. A constellation in the equatorial region of the southern sky.



1969-2009

One Giant Leap for Mankind

The Apollo Program

NASA's giant leap to the moon



Fourth of July Music Reflects U.S. History, Diversity



State of Liberty

For over 100 years this famous American landmark greeted immigrants to the shores of the United States. She is a beautiful reminder of the importance of political liberty and of friendship between countries.

Follow the link to find more about it..

EL Civics Government and History Lessons

Free lessons for students and teachers - [Lifeskills Lessons](#).

Teach your students about the President of the United States using this [Barack Obama Lesson](#).

Holiday lesson for September: [Labor Day](#) is on Monday, September 7, 2009.



Education Statistics / Fast Facts

Is participation in adult learning increasing?

Overall participation in adult education among individuals age 16 or older increased from 40 percent in 1995 to 46 percent in 2001 and then declined to 44 percent in 2005. In 2005, among the various types of adult education activities, individuals age 16 or older participated most in work-related courses (27 percent), followed by personal

interest courses (21 percent), part-time college or university degree programs (5 percent), and other activities (3 percent).

[Read more...](#)

The Condition of Education summarizes important developments and trends in education using the latest available data. The report, which the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is required by law to produce, is an indicator report

intended for a general audience of readers who are interested in education. The indicators represent a consensus of professional judgment on the most significant national measures of the condition and progress of education for which accurate data are available. For the 2009 edition, NCES prepared a special analysis to take a closer look at U.S. student performance on international assessments.

The Quote of the Month

"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."

- Diogenes Laertius

Feature Article and more Resources for Students and teachers...

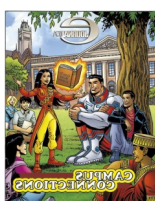
The Case for International Education

Pursuing an education in a foreign country allows a young person to develop the skills necessary to become an effective and productive global citizen. Allan E. Goodman is president and chief executive officer of the Institute of International Education, the leading not-for-profit organization in the field

of international educational exchange and development training. [Read more...](#)

Campus Connections

A globalized economy makes business and employment spill across national boundaries, so an education abroad is likely to make a young person



better prepared for the world's future. Almost double the numbers of students travel abroad for an education today as compared with 20 years ago. *Campus Connections* examines the international study experience and its influence on individual growth. [Inside this publication...](#)

Resource Guide

Books, reports, Web sites, and other reference material focused on international study.

Library Corner

If you are interested in receiving full-text of the following articles, just send an email to:
reflisbon@state.gov

LIDA 2009: Focusing on Heritage, Intelligent Access, and Learning

Information Today, Jul/Aug 2009, Vol. 26, Iss. 7; pg. 23, 1 pgs

Professional searching by librarians is declining, end user searching is increasing and this is moving librarians from searching toward information literacy education, according to Tefko Saracevic in his opening remarks during the *Libraries in the Digital Age* (LIDA) conference in

Dubrovnik and Zadar, Croatia. The 2009 conference showcased two big themes: Reflections: Changes Brought by and in *Digital Libraries* in the Last Decade, and Heritage & *Digital Libraries* -- Digitization, Preservation, and Access.

Latest news from Library Journal.com:

Norman Oder -- Library Journal, 8/21/2009

Opposition to Google Deal Mounts, as Microsoft, Yahoo, Amazon Join Forces

"Open Book Alliance" will ally with Internet Archive, involve some library groups.

By Susan Kantor-Horning -- Library Journal, 8/15/2009

Self-Service to the People

It's called GoLibrary in the United States and Bokomaten in its native Sweden. Patrons know it as Library-a-Go-Go in Contra Costa County, CA, but whatever its name, the automated lending service this materials handling machine provides has proved a tremendous aid in addressing underserved segments of this sprawling community.

LJ Report: Chicago ALA 2009
 Buoyant Despite Downturn

American Library Association News

Roberta Stevens, outreach projects and partnerships officer at the Library of Congress (LC) and project manager for the National Book Festival, has been elected 2010-11 ALA president.

Source: American Libraries. Chicago: Jun/Jul 2009. Vol. 40, Iss. 6/7; pg. 12, 4 pgs

Interview:: Arne Duncan Talks about the Role of Libraries in Economic Recovery

The U.S. Secretary of Education shares his views on volunteerism, No Child Left Behind, and reading readiness, in an exclusive June 22 conversation with American Libraries Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel.



BOOK QUOTES

"IF THERE'S A BOOK YOU REALLY WANT TO READ BUT IT HASN'T BEEN WRITTEN YET, THEN YOU MUST WRITE IT."

Encouraging Reading — Library of Congress News

Reading is fundamental in developing knowledge and creativity, whether doing so at home or school. Featured are tools for teachers, librarians and parents to stimulate young readers.

Tips for Parents and Educators from Reading is Fundamental

Teacher Resources

International Children's Digital Library



THE CENTER FOR THE BOOK LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Center for the Book

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress promotes books, reading, libraries, and literacy by celebrating the legacy of books and the printed word.

Visit the Center's Web Site



Books can open windows to new worlds and doors to adventure. Here is just a sampling of recommended reading that will spark imagination and transport you to new and exciting places.

Read the Explore New Worlds booklist

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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
LISBON • PORTUGAL

**EMBASSY
HIGHLIGHTS**

*USS Eisenhower
Visits Lisbon*

The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower took a much anticipated port visit in Lisbon in July, after completing more than three months of combat operations in support of coalition forces in Afghanistan. The ship was operating in the Arabian Sea as part of a regularly-scheduled deployment in support of *Operation Enduring Freedom* and maritime security operations.



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HEAR FROM YOU!**

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information key!**

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Hours of Operation

- The AERC provides telephone service every day between 9:30 and 16:30 except during: Lunch Hour (12:30 - 13:30), weekends, and [Portuguese/American Holidays](#)
- AERC also responds to queries by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.
- Access to our facility is by appointment only. Please call us in advance to schedule your visit.

Latest Reports - If you are interested in receiving full text of the following reports, just send an email to: reflisbon@state.gov

DO QUASI-MARKETS FOSTER INNOVATION IN EDUCATION?

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Christopher Lubien-ski. August 4, 2009. The education sector is often linked to innovation, particularly in its role in providing the training and skills associated with work-force innovations and economic growth. Does the rate of innovation increase when educators are spurred on by competitive incentives? What types of innovations then appear, and in what levels of the educational organization? The report reviews the evidence, drawing on information from over 20 countries.

ENERGY MARKET AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF H.R. 2454, THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2009. Energy Information Administration. August 4, 2009.

The report responds to a request from Chairman Henry Waxman and Chairman Edward Markey for an analysis of H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACESA). ACESA, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 26, 2009, is a complex bill that regulates emissions of greenhouse

gases through market-based mechanisms, efficiency programs, and economic incentives.

SAME-GENDER MARRIAGE & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Interfaith Alliance. C. Welton Gaddy. August 2009. In the paper, the author calls for a new national discussion on marriage based on the premise that "law, not scripture, is the foundation of government regulations related to marriage in our nation." The paper expresses support for same-gender marriage, seeking to shift the perspective on LGBT equality from problem to solution. To do so, the author advocates for moving from scriptural argument to religious freedom agreement, and to address the issue of equality as informed by the U.S. Constitution.

10 REASONS TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL. Families USA. July 2009.

The report provides a quick run-down of the provisions in the health reform bills pending in Congress.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE ON HEALTH REFORM AND COST CONTAINMENT. Economic Policy Institute. Josh Bivens. July 27, 2009.

According to the author, reducing the growth rate of health care costs, will require a number of very specific policy interventions. Evidence from the international peers, U.S. domestic experience with publicly-financed versus private insurance, and simulations about the likely effects of future reform all back up the current reform proposals. He believes that President Obama understands the situation well.

ENSURING THE INTEGRITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND STEWARDSHIP OF RESEARCH DATA IN THE DIGITAL AGE.

National Academy of Sciences. July 22, 2009. Though digital technologies and high-speed communications have significantly expanded the capabilities of scientists, allowing them to analyze and share vast amounts of data, these technologies are also raising difficult questions for researchers, institutions, and journals. Because digital data can be manipulated more easily than other forms, they are particularly susceptible to distortion. Questions about how to maintain the data generated, who should have access, and who pays to store them can be controversial, according to the study. ■